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PROJECT OUTLINE

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

Project Cryptonym HTREPAIR Project No. \_\_\_\_\_

Project Type Paramilitary

1. Authorization for the Project

- a. Strategic Plan - EE Division - Annex H, pages 1-3, and  
EE Division - Annex J-13, pages 12-31
- b. Country Plan - Part IV-III-4, and  
Annex C-4

2. Other References

558-CVAWU (and attachment, 276-CSAVA)

3. Objective and Necessity

a. Objective: The objective of this project is to establish a safe area in central Austria in which to base Escape and Evasion operations. It is intended that the staff of this network will be capable of locating, screening, holding indefinitely and "rat lining" out at least one hundred persons at any one time. It is also intended that this network will be able to establish and maintain W/T contact with a base outside Austria for wartime operations.

b. Necessity: Austria forms a vital link in proposed and established OPC Escape and Evasion networks leading out of present Soviet satellite countries into the Western European area. The proposed project is a necessary link in the over-all program for Escape and Evasion in event of general war.

4. Proposal

a. Statement of the Proposal: It is proposed to recruit two individuals who are suitably located in the area, and who are presently in control of the necessary facilities to carry out the objectives of this project. In order to provide for the initial wartime supply of the net to be established under this project, one complete 100-man TO & E unit of equipment will be required for caching. It is also planned to cache 3,000 field rations, assorted medical supplies, and a variety of winter shoes and clothing. Two W/T operators will be trained, and at least three W/T sets, capable of long-range operation, will be cached for these radio operators. Funds in the amount of \$7,500 are required

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for use in the field to carry out the objectives of this project. (See attached Form 404a for detailed project financial data.) The project has been divided into four phases, of which Phase I has been partially completed.

(1) Phase I consisted of a survey of central Austria to locate an area suitable for the subject operations. Following the area survey, an attempt was made to locate, screen and evaluate a prospective Principal Agent. This part of Phase I has been completed, and local record checks and Headquarters operational clearances are in progress. Further assessment and checking will continue until the project itself has been approved.

(2) Phase II will consist of the final recruitment of the Principal Agent and his chief assistant. The recruitment will be followed by a period of training and concurrent assessment. The Principal Agent will be instructed in the basic principles of Escape and Evasion and will be directed to survey his area to locate facilities and spot personnel for later use. Local checks will be conducted and agent records kept on all personnel spotted. Operational clearances will be secured on all key personnel involved.

(3) In Phase III, key assistants for the network will be recruited and trained, to include net-suborganizers, safehouse-keepers, and at least two W/T operators. Caching of equipment and mapping of air drop and pick-up zones will be finished. Once these preparations are completed, and depending on the local conditions then prevailing, practice exercises will be conducted on a staff level.

(4) Phase IV is the wartime operations phase, during which the network will function in conjunction with the over-all program for Escape and Evasion in Europe. The commencement of each phase in the project will naturally depend upon the successful completion of the preceding phase.

b. Background of the Project: The operation will be based in and around Bad Aussee, in the province of Styria, and will comprise the entire Totes Gebirge area. The prospective Principal Agent is the chief forester of this region. The area itself is characterized by rugged mountainous terrain. Except for the lower foothills, the area is impassable to any type of vehicle, but is well covered by logging and hiking trails. Available real estate facilities consist of a variety of government and privately owned mountain huts, garages, and equipment sheds. The chief forester has at his disposal a variety of transportation facilities, including horses, mules, wagons, trucks, and automobiles.

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He has operational as well as administrative control over all of the foresters and "jaegers" (wild-life conservation personnel) in the area. These consist of twenty-five jaegers, engineers and foresters, and fifty laborers.

c. Current Status of the Project: Two prospective agents have been contacted and granted provisional operational clearances for use in this project. Neither will be given more than a very general briefing of the proposed activity until full operational clearances, which have been in process for over three months, are forthcoming. One of them, as indicated above, controls the state forests of the entire Totes Gebirge area, and the other is one of the jaegers stationed there. An OSO case officer, who has known both men for approximately five years, considers them to be firmly pro-U.S. and anti-Communist. They have been living and working in the area for at least thirty years and have extensive contacts among the reliable and potentially useful elements in the population. The entire area has been surveyed both by map and on foot by OFC staff personnel.

d. Relation to other Projects:

(1) Ultimately, the activities proposed under Project HTREPAIR will be included under a master Austrian paramilitary project now in preparation. Pending eventual approval of the master project, Project HTREPAIR will provide the Escape and Evasion link to connect, on the east, with the line established under Project JBGIVING, and on the west, with a line to be established under another project now in the developmental stage in the field. This new line will further connect into the Escape and Evasion assets in western Austria under proposed Project QKBLAMED (shortly to be submitted for approval), which will provide branch lines into Germany, Switzerland, and Italy. Project JBGIVING will ultimately provide for international links in eastern Austria in Escape and Evasion lines to be established leading out of Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

(2) The Escape and Evasion line to be established under this project with the headquarters of its organization in the Bad Aussee area would be the link between the Hallstatt area, the terminus of the line being formed on the west with the assistance of JBLAUNCH personnel, and the western terminus at Admont, of the JBGIVING line.

5. Operational Outline

a. Area of Operations: Central Austria--the operation will be based in Bad Aussee, province of Styria, and extend across the entire Totes Gebirge area.

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b. Duration of Project: When approved, the project will be developed through Phase III and then held in readiness. If general war breaks out, it will be used as long as needed and/or operationally feasible.

c. Cover and Security:

(1) The OPC case officer was originally introduced to the proposed Principal Agent and his assistant by an OSC case officer who has known the men and hunted in this area since 1945. The meeting was arranged under the guise of a hunting trip. The OPC case officer has employed hunting and photography for subsequent trips to the area. These trips were used for further developmental contacts and surveying of the area.

(2)

d. Risks Involved: The initial phases involve the recruitment of only a few indigenous agents. All such agents will be recruited only after careful investigation and the issuance of operational clearances. Information given to elements of the net will be on a strict need-to-know basis, and the maximum degree of compartmentation possible will be maintained between individual members of this net, as well as between this net and the organizations established under other projects. Since the area is strongly pro-Western and all possible security precautions will be observed, a minimum of risk will be involved.

e. Operational Control: The operational control in this project depends almost entirely upon the strong pro-Western attitude of the indigenous personnel involved and their equally strong anti-Soviet and anti-Communist feelings. Once the project has become operational, it would provide these individuals with a strong stimulus to morale, since it will provide them with the tangible support necessary for effective resistance against the Communists.

f. Personnel: One U.S. Staff Employee, who is active also on other projects and is charged against JBEDICT, and eight indigenous agents.

(1) In the field.

(a) The over-all Escape and Evasion program for Austria, of which this project is one element, calls for the immediate spotting and carding of a corps of indigenous

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individuals, who will be recruited only after war begins by the Escape and Evasion organizers being recruited at present. To each side of the main Escape and Evasion line running generally east to west across Austria, there will be a belt approximately 15 kilometers in depth. This belt, 30 kilometers in width, will be covered by the corps of spotters now being carded. Their function in wartime will be to spot Allied evaders in their area, and to direct and assist them in reaching the main Escape and Evasion line.

(b) It is anticipated that evaders will also be given substantial assistance by Austrians who are not members of Escape and Evasion organizations. Since the vast majority of Austrians are strongly anti-Communist, an evader approaching an Austrian, under circumstances which are not too compromising, could reasonably expect some sort of assistance. It will be the organization's task to ascertain where such evaders are being sheltered, and to take them off the hands of persons who have spontaneously given them aid, without knowing how safely to dispose of them.

(c) It is believed that Catholic Church priests may be particularly helpful in Escape and Evasion activity. An approach to Catholic authorities in Salzburg, in hopes of getting them to organize for this purpose, is now under consideration. Whether a formal organization is effected or not, local priests may well prove to be of inestimable value, both to spotters (as centers through which information could be received and passed on) and to evaders themselves (as the most likely sources for interim assistance).

(2) Finance and Equipment.

(a) Equipment:

1. 1 unit 100-man TO/E (to be procured under and charged to Project FJBEFIAP, now under preparation)
2. 3,000 field rations
3. 25 sets winter clothing
4. 3 W/T sets RS-1 (provided by the Office of Communications and now in stock at the CIC Austrian Mission)

(b) Finance: \$7,500.00 (See attached Form 404a)

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(3) Training: Field

- (a) Two W/T operators to be trained by field personnel of the Office of Communications.
- (b) Principal Agent and sub-organizers by the OPC case officer in the principles of Escape and Evasion, tradecraft, security, and spotting.
- (c) Safehouse keepers by the Principal Agent in security and their specific functions.

h. Communications Plan:

- (1) It is proposed that two W/T operators be trained, and that three W/T sets, capable of long-range operation, be cached for these operators.
- (2) It is highly desirable that each section of the over-all Escape and Evasion net in Austria have its own W/T communication to base. It is proposed that the sections be entirely compartmented from each other in the interests of security, and this compartmentation would be jeopardized if a common W/T station were used. In addition, the distances from some sections to a central W/T station would be far too great for efficiency.
- (3) Internal communications will be conducted by courier, by mail (using code or invisible ink), and by telephone (using code messages). Letter drops, cut-outs, and other tradecraft will be used. Drop zones will be reconnoitered for later supply by air.

i. Reports Procedure: Standard reports procedures will be used.

j. Coordination: The project has been coordinated with the Office of Communications and OSO. Over-all coordination of OPC Escape and Evasion assets and plans with USFA and possibly USAFE will be effected at a later appropriate date.

k. Disaster Plan: In the event of outbreak of hostilities, Phase IV of the project will automatically be initiated. The Principal Agent and sub-organizers will immediately recruit the line personnel previously spotted and carded. The net and the W/T communications will be activated as per previously agreed plan.

6. Budget Data

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The total funds requirement under this project is \$7,500 for the remainder of Fiscal Year 1952. The bulk of this sum, \$6,000, is to be used for the purchase of supplies, such as rations, clothing, and barter items, not already charged to other projects. The remainder will be used for token salaries to the Principal Agent and his chief assistant, and for gifts to other subordinate personnel in lieu of salaries. Salaries have been fixed as a result of general conversations with the prospective Principal Agent, as well as in view of those being paid under similar OFC projects in Austria. The cost of rations has been set at the level established by the Army, while the cost for other supplies has been estimated in the light of prices prevailing on the local market.